

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02777 101028Z

41

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 IO-14 USIA-15 /064 W

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R 100923Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6046

UNCLAS TEHRAN 2777

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, IR

SUBJ: VOLUNTARY VISITOR DR. ABDOL-RAHIM AHMADI

REF: TEHRAN 2753

1. SUMMARY: KR. AHMADI, CHANCELLOR OF FREE UNIVERSITY OF IRAN, TO VISIT UNITED STATES AT GOI EXPENSE APRIL 29 TO LATE MAY IN ORDER TO: A) ATTEND CONFERENCE (REFTEL), B) RECRUIT IRANIANS FOR HIS FACULTY, AND C) CONSULT SPECIALISTS IN EXTRA-MURAL UNIVERSITY EDUCATION. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO DEVELOP PROGRAM OF ABOUT THREE WEEKS BEGINNING MAY 11 ENABLING DR. AHMADI TO VISIT AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS ACTIVE IN DEVELOPING MULTI-MEDIA, CORRESPONDENCE-BASED, UNIVERSITY-LEVEL EDUCATION. END SUMMARY.

2. FREE UNIVERSITY, STILL IN PLANNING STAGE, IS MODELED AFTER OPEN UNIVERSITY IN U.K. PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE UNIVERSITY-LEVEL EDUCATION TO THOSE UNABLE ATTEND NORMAL, INSTITUTIONAL UNIVERSITIES. PLAN ENVISAGES PROGRAMS OF INSTRUCTION THROUGH ELECTRONIC MEDIA, CHIEFLY TV, AND PRINTED MATERIALS AVAILABLE THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE. AT START THERE ARE TO BE ABOUT THIRTY CENTERS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT IRAN, WHERE INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF AND STUDY FACILITIES INCLUDING TV MONITORS, VTR AND CASSETTE LIBRARIES AS WELL AS PRINTED MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE. LATER ON THIS NETWORK IS EXPECTED TO EXPAND TENFOLD. FIRST STUDENT WILL BE ENROLLED THREE YEARS HENCE. PRESENT CONCERN IS TO DEVELOP TAPED AND OTHERWISE RECORDED INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, AND TRAIN STAFF IN THEIR USE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 02777 101028Z

3. AT OUTSET PROGRAMS OF INSTRUCTION WILL BE HEAVILY WEIGHTED

TOWARD EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES, WITH COURSES ON EDUCATIONAL PLANNING
EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS, ECONOMICS OF EDUCATION, CURRICULUM
DEVELOPMENT, PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION, SCIENCE TEACHING, EDUCATIONAL
PSYCHOLOGY, PROGRAMMED LEARNED, TEACHER TRAINING, INSTRUCTIONAL
TECHNOLOGY AND OTHERS. EMPHASIS ON PEDAGOGY REFLECTS IRAN'S
PRESSING NEED FOR MANY MORE TEACHERS, AS RESULT RECENT MOVES
BY GOI GREATLY EXPANDING ACCESS TO PRIMARY EDUCATION (SEE
EMBASSY TEHRAN A-42, MARCH 9, 1974).

4. BIO DATA ON DR. AHMADI FOLLOWS:

PDOB: KERMAN, IRAN 1925; POSITIONS: CHANCELLOR, FREE
UNIVERSITY OF IRAN. PREVIOUS POSITIONS: DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING; EDITOR,
"ECONOMIC RESEARCH" MAGAZINE; PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS,
UNIVERSITY OF TEHRAN. EDUCATION: PH.D. (ECON) TEHRAN
UNIVERSITY; CERTIFICATE IN ECONOMIC STATISTICS, US BUREAU
OF CENSUS; GRADUATE-WORK, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY;
DIPLOMA, FRENCH LANGUAGE COLLEGE, PARIS. OTHER ACTIVITIES:
MEMBER OF IRANIAN DELEGATION TO 16TH AND 17TH SESSIONS OF GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF UNESCO, 1970, 1972; LEADER OF IRANIAN DELEGATION
TO 32ND CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION BUREAU, 1972.
LANGUAGE COMPETENCE: ENGLISH S-4, R-4 PLUS.

5. DR. AHMADI WOULD LIKE TO ARRIVE WASHINGTON DC APRIL 29,
TO DISCUSS HIS PROGRAM, HAVE CONSULTATIONS WITH APPROPRIATE
PERSONS IN WASHINGTON AREA, THEN TRAVEL TO UTAH TO VISIT HIS
DAUGHTER, THEN PROCEED DENVER FOR CONFERENCE. HIS MAIN PROGRAM
WOULD BEGIN AFTER CONFERENCE, IE. MAY 11, AND LAST ABOUT THREE
WEEKS.

6. DR. AHMADI'S DAUGHTER, GILA AHMADI IS STUDENT AT UNIVERSITY
OF UTAH, 415 UNIVERSITY STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

7. EMBASSY VIEWS DR. AHMADI'S VISIT AS PROJECT OF CONSIDERABLE
IMPORTANCE, AND REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING
DETAILED PROGRAM OF VISITS TO AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
OFFERING INSTRUCTION IN MANNER FORSEEN FOR FREE UNIVERSITY
IRAN, IN-DEPTH CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALISTS USING TYPE OF
MATERIALS SUGGESTED ABOVE, AND THOSE IN BUSINESS OF PRODUCING
SOFTWARE FOR ELECTRONIC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS ON UNIVERSITY LEVEL,
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PAGE 03 TEHRAN 02777 101028Z

IN FIELDS INDICATED.

8. AIRPOUCHING ADDITIONAL MATERIALS ON FREE UNIVERSITY IRAN.

9. DR. AHMADI ALSO REQUESTS GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING
IRANIANS WHO FINISHING M.A. OR PH.D.S THIS YEAR, WHO MIGHT BE
INTERESTED JOINING HIS STAFF. HE OBTAINED EXTENSIVE LIST
FROM IIE, BUT THIS PROVED UNSATISFACTORY BECAUSE MUCH OF THE

DATA WAS OLD OR INCOMPLETE. SUGGEST VISIT TO IIE OR OTHER SOURCE
OF SUCH INFORMATION, BE PART OF HIS PROGRAM. EMBASSY AWARE
THAT RECRUITMENT ASPECT OF DR. AHMADI'S VISIT SHOULD PERHAPS
BE PRIMARY CONCERN OF IRANIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON, BUT BELIEVES
IT UNLIKELY THAT INFORMATION REQUIRED IS AVAILABLE THERE
EITHER. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENT ON DEPARTMENT'S ABILITY TO
HANDLE THIS REQUEST, WHICH MADE TO US PREVIOUSLY BY OTHER
VISITORS, EG. DR. RIAHI, AND WHICH MAY WELL COME UP AGAIN.

10. ADVISE IF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEHRAN02777
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740082-0650
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740450/aaaabtmj.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEHRAN 2753
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VOLUNTARY VISITOR DR. ABDOL-RAHIM AHMADI
TAGS: OEXC, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005